

BGU 4.1141

P.Berol. 13070 verso

Other editions: Schubart, *Papyri Graecae Berolinenses*, pp. xiii-xiv (no. 13); Olsson, *Papyrusbriefe* 9; Arzt-Grabner, 2. *Korinther*, pp. 62-64

Other translation: Olsson, *Papyrusbriefe*, pp. 47-48; Arzt-Grabner, 2. *Korinther*, pp. 64-65

Scan: Beliner Papyrusdatenbank

Private letter

After April 9, 13 BC

(a) *Prescript*

|1 To Erotes (BL 11.25) many greetings.

(b) *First issue*

I have received from Philoxenos your single letter |<sup>2</sup> ... we disagreed since ... Therefore with |<sup>3</sup> great joy I held them ... and these |<sup>4</sup> and the necessary matters ... to do |<sup>5</sup> are done in a friendly manner. Therefore, you sent Philoxenos and Hilaros to find out, |<sup>6</sup> with respect to what I wrote, whether or not it is (*true*). You seem to have been insulted (*Olsson*, *Papyrusbriefe*, p. 49) because |<sup>7</sup> I am compelled to write to you, who behaved like an idiot (*Arzt-Grabner*), (*and*) no longer not to write to you, so that you understand that in my first |<sup>8</sup> letter there is no fault. For I am neither carrying out the task of an informer, |<sup>9</sup> nor, indeed, do I think that you consider me to be in the position of an informer. I am asking |<sup>10</sup> you, then, and I am urging and adjuring you by the good fortune of Caesar (*Augustus*) that you in this way |<sup>11</sup> as a free man see that you have delivered (BL 13.31) the letter in anger. Ask those whom |<sup>12</sup> you have sent in any way, for I have given true proofs. |<sup>13</sup> You are joking when you write, "If Eros gives you satisfaction, write to me," and after you wrote to him |<sup>14</sup> to abuse me, you wrote this to me as a joke. I, indeed, do not think that I deserve to be insulted (*cancelled*: as also your friends will testify to you), for |<sup>16</sup> I have not wronged you in any way, nor will it appear right to your friends that I am being insulted, |<sup>17</sup> when I am giving you satisfaction. For, in my own mind, I am convinced that, |<sup>18</sup> ever since I became friends with you, I have not abandoned my station. You will not (*Arzt-Grabner*) bring one charge against me, |<sup>19</sup> if indeed you treat me with honor and you want me to be a man (?), |<sup>20</sup> and you have given support to fellow slaves and fellow freedmen, which is (*as good as*) |<sup>21</sup> money with you. And I am not acting abusively toward those who have become rich, except for |<sup>22</sup> your fellow slave and fellow freedman. (*cancelled*: In both ways Eros your ... |<sup>23</sup> insults me by saying) For I did not become your friend in order to snatch something, but |<sup>24</sup> your soul knows that, just as a slave wants to please (*his master*) with a view to (*gaining his*) freedom, so |<sup>25</sup> also I, wanting your friendship, kept myself blameless. |<sup>26</sup> What sort of abuse he made against me in the garden and in |<sup>27</sup> the house, while Terentius was present and Priamos and Philoxenos and Hilaros – if I could have written tears to you, |<sup>28</sup> I would have written with them. And (*cancelled*: in the Plateia) he harvested |<sup>29</sup> our walkway from the garden. Concerning these things, those whom you have sent will make clear, unless they want to show extraordinary favor toward a fellow slave.

(c) *Second issue*

<sup>31</sup> Concerning Xystos, you write to me, that he is in a miserable plight outside. Whether his fellow slave <sup>32</sup> will be able to support him in any way, I do not know. Nor, indeed, am I sleeping inside <sup>33</sup> so that I could find out. On the days when I go up, I find him sitting <sup>34</sup> and winding (BL 3.17) the thread off a reel for the woof. And every day I question the doorman <sup>35</sup> whether by chance someone has fallen asleep outside, and the (*doorman*) of the house has never yet ... to me <sup>36</sup> that ... had not even dined outside. When I learned that Xystos had dined inside <sup>37</sup> in the house with Eros twice, I took him along into the house with me and I began to give <sup>38</sup> to him orders to have nothing to do with that man. I was cautious <sup>39</sup> because I already knew about the rings Eros had made, <sup>40</sup> so that he might not somehow persuade him to reveal something pertaining to the affair. And concerning <sup>41</sup> the embroidered patch (*for a robe*), it has become clear to me, while engaged in questioning with Philoxenos and Hilaros, that the purple stripe was altered <sup>42</sup> by Diodoros, and he has not given it to you in accordance with the sample specimen he showed you, <sup>43</sup> because of the fact that the old man who is hiding the embroidered patch, when he was asked <sup>44</sup> by me, said that it was changed, and I told him twice (?), “Why didn’t you reveal these things from the beginning ... so that you too might be treated kindly?” <sup>45</sup> He said, “Diodoros had promised me a gift, <sup>46</sup> but he neither paid me the wages, nor the gift. <sup>47</sup> For this reason necessity has kept me from revealing (*what happened to the robe*).” Then, after examining him thoroughly, <sup>48</sup> I began to ask the old man privately, without the awareness of Xystos, because I wanted to know if also Xystos <sup>49</sup> was in on it. The old man said that he (*Xystos*) did not know anything at all about these things. <sup>50</sup> I said to him, “You should also report in writing about Xystos not being aware of <sup>51</sup> these things.” And he first ... report in writing <sup>52</sup> (*cancelled*: ... Diodoros because of the fact that <sup>53</sup> he had not given wages ...) <sup>54</sup> who encourages me to put up with the ... <sup>55</sup> to him Diodoros because of the fact that he had not given ... <sup>56</sup> who is a ... *arches* <sup>57</sup> I am in good health ... <sup>58</sup> ... <sup>59</sup> ... to be useful. It therefore seemed to me ... <sup>60</sup> manuscript note ...